

PRESS RELEASE

FPS supports TÜV Rheinland in a research report on vehicle procurement processes in urban rail transport

Frankfurt am Main, 20 January 2026 – The commercial law firm FPS was involved in the preparation of a specialist study on vehicle procurement processes in urban rail transport. The analysis was carried out by TÜV Rheinland Intertraffic GmbH on behalf of the German Centre for Rail Transport Research (DZSF) at the Federal Railway Authority.

FPS supported the research project, launched in 2023, with its expertise in public procurement law. The study aimed to review the procurement processes for trams and light rail vehicles under the Tram Construction and Operating Regulations (BOStrab), comparing them with processes in other EU member states and identifying potential areas for improvement. The goal is to further develop urban rail transport as a central component of the transport transition in an efficient manner.

The project was led by TÜV Rheinland. The legal part was handled by lawyer Aline Fritz. As part of the study, the experts analysed the period from 2012 to 2022. As well as examining the legal situation in Germany, the experts looked closely at the legal framework in France, Austria and Poland, among others.

The results show that the tendering and contract implementation phases for the procurement of road and light rail vehicles in Germany can be significantly longer. While the entire process takes an average of 4.1 years in other EU countries, it takes around 5.2 years in Germany.

The report identifies deviations from standard solutions in vehicle technology, the high complexity of maintenance services, and personnel and organisational resource bottlenecks as the main causes of delays.

Consequently, existing standard vehicles often cannot be used. Greater standardisation, particularly in the tendering process, could help smaller transport companies in particular implement the procurement process more efficiently. As a result, the authors present specific action recommendations of a technical, organisational and legal nature.

Lawyer Aline Fritz explains: "The study shows that targeted legal and organisational adjustments can realise substantial acceleration potential – sustainably and in full compliance with the law. We are delighted to have contributed our extensive experience in tendering and procurement processes to this project. When advising Mainz Transport Authority on new and replacement tram procurement

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processes last year, we recognised the considerable demand for practical solutions in this field."

Advisor FPS

Aline Fritz (Lead, public procurement law)

FPS is one of the leading independent commercial law firms in Germany, employing more than 330 people. At its offices in Berlin, Düsseldorf, Frankfurt, Hamburg and Munich, over 140 highly qualified lawyers provide swift, efficient and personal advice to clients. The firm's range of services is complemented by notarial offices in Frankfurt and Berlin. FPS offers comprehensive expertise in all areas of business law – particularly employment law, banking and finance law, energy law, corporate/M&A, healthcare, real estate and construction law, intellectual property, IT and data protection law, competition law, litigation and professional and managerial liability, notarial services, public building, planning and environmental law, public law and regulation, restructuring and insolvency law, tax law, as well as procurement, state aid and funding law.

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